



Community Contacts Newsletter

University of Northern British Columbia

May 20, 2005

Volume 1, Number 3

*"Northern
Strength
to
Northern
Strength."*



UNBC's Atlin Campus

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Welcome

We are pleased to present the May 2005 newsletter of the Community Development Institute (CDI) at UNBC. We hope that this newsletter will help to keep you informed about developments at the CDI. Our plan is to send these e-newsletters out to our community contacts quarterly. If you have any comments on how we can improve the newsletter, or if you have news that you would like us to include in our next edition, feel free to contact our coordinator at manson@unbc.ca.

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The CDI at UNBC

The Community Development Institute at UNBC is interested in two fundamental issues for communities in northern BC: community capacity and community development. By undertaking research, sharing information, and supporting education outreach, the Institute is becoming an important partner to communities interested in making informed decisions about their own futures.

The Institute emphasizes the importance of capacity-building, collaboration, learning, and complementarity. Research that is undertaken balances academic credibility with practical relevance. Beyond research, the Institute is involved in outreach activities and serves as a conduit to expand local educational opportunities related to community development.

For more information please visit our website:

www.unbc.ca/cdi

Projects

Tourism and Development Foundation Project

Between May and September of 2005, staff at the Community Development Institute along with faculty members of UNBC's Resource Recreation and Tourism Program will be developing new connections and relationships with organizations in the tourism sector. Our research has shown that tourism plays an important but little studied part of Northern BC's economy. The Tourism and Development Foundation Project will probe opportunities and challenges for the tourism sector and will create a foundation of knowledge to support new economic development work.

To begin, data will be collected and interviews conducted with economic development and tourism industry actors across northern BC. The interviews will be conducted in communities from 100 Mile House to Atlin and from the Alberta border to the Queen Charlotte Islands. As we identify core issues supporting and challenging economic development opportunities in the tourism sector, we will be building a solid foundation to support more detailed research on creating economic development across the region. This project builds upon the work of the Community Development Institute through the Northern BC Economic Development Vision and Strategy Project that has been underway for the past two years.

For further information on this project please contact CDI acting coordinator Don Manson:

manson@unbc.ca

*The CDI and the
Rural and Small
Town Studies Team
look forward to
continuing to work
with you this
summer*

Community Connections

For the third summer in a row, the Community Development Institute will be continuing its Northern BC Economic Development Vision and Strategy Project, this time expanding its borders to include the southern part of the Yukon Territory and part of Alaska. The acting coordinator for the Community Development Institute will be traveling across UNBC's service region in an effort to further the dialogue around this ongoing project. Interviews and discussions will take place involving government, industry, labour, small business, First Nations, economic development organizations, and community groups. Look for more information on the CDI website under 'community visits.'

Links

Smithers Symposium on Mountain Community Development: Planning for Tourism, Amenity Migration, and Resorts

The Purpose of this event is to bring together researchers, planning practitioners, and decision-makers concerned with planning for nature-based tourism, amenity migration, and large resort development in mountain communities of the world, but particularly those in the British Columbia interior.

For more information visit the website at: <http://resweb.res.unbc.ca/smitherssymposium2005>

Community Forestry Guidebook

BC's Forest Research Extension Partnership (FORREX) is a charitable non-share corporation, linking people to knowledge, and facilitating continuing innovation and improvement in natural resource policy and management. Along with the British Columbia Community Forestry Association, FORREX recently produced "Community Forestry Guidebook: Tools and Techniques for Communities in British Columbia." The Guidebook is intended as a practical guide for communities and organizations interested in applying for community forest licenses or launching community forestry programs; its content is targeted at municipalities, community organizations, and First Nations in BC. Community Forestry is introduced to be 'about local control over and enjoyment of the monetary and non-monetary benefits offered by local forest resources.'

For a copy of the Guidebook visit: <http://www.forrex.org/publications/forrexseries/fs15.pdf>

Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition

The Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition, chaired by Williams Lake Mayor Rick Gibson, will focus on developing long-term local solutions to the pine beetle epidemic. Three key areas the Coalition intends to pursue include land base issues, economic development and communications. Recently having received an initial \$800,000 grant from the provincial government, the Coalition is expected to develop community-based strategies that will be transferable to other regions.

Watch for more information to come, or review a presentation on the Coalition at: <http://www.cofi.org/whatsnew/ac2005/presentations/RickGibson050415.pdf>

Seven Great Ways to Build Community

Looking for a way to get involved and involve others in the community now that the weather is so nice? Charles Dobson outlines a bunch of 'proven practices that create bonds among people.' His ideas, from community kitchens to river guardians, can provide the inspiration to create your own community building partnerships.

For further information on these community building activities please visit: <http://www.thetyee.ca/CitizenToolkit/current/Seven+Great+Ways+to+Build+Community.htm>

Institute News – CDI Speaker's Series

The Community Development Institute, in partnership with communities and funding agencies, has planned to sponsor two Community Speakers a year; one in the fall and one in the spring. Experts will be invited to speak on important and relevant topics.

The first Speakers series took place this spring on the 17th and 18th of March. Dr. Sean Markey, adjunct Professor at Simon Fraser University's Centre for Sustainable Community Development, delivered his talk "Cows in the City and Other Rural Development Strategies" first at UNBC and then in Kitimat the following day. All events were successful and provided an ideal forum for discussion.

Richard Porges, Manager of Research Services for Tourism BC, has tentatively agreed to participate in the speaker's series this fall. His lectures, if all goes as planned, will take place on 6 October 2005 at UNBC then on 7 October 2005 in Williams Lake.

For further information please contact Don Manson at (250) 960-5018 or manson@unbc.ca